



PRESS RELEASE

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10-YEAR U.S. SECRET SERVICE CYBER-CRIME INVESTIGATION CULMINATES IN 27 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR RUSSIAN HACKER

Over 400 Victim Companies Defrauded of More Than \$169 Million

(Seattle, WA) A 10-year cyber investigation led by the U.S. Secret Service and Seattle Police Department, culminated today in Seattle federal court with the sentencing of Roman Seleznev (AKA "Track2"). Seleznev, 32, of Vladivostok, Russia, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Richard A. Jones to 27 years in federal prison related to his scheme to hack into point-of-sale computers to steal and sell credit card numbers on criminal carding websites. Seleznev was convicted by a jury in August, 2016, on a 38-count indictment following an eight-day trial.

This investigation began nearly a decade ago with the identification of a prominent cybercriminal, who at the time, was only known by an online nick-name on Russian speaking cybercrime forums. Over time, the investigation revealed that this individual was Roman Seleznev. Separately, in 2008, Secret Service [Electronic Crimes Task Force](#) Officers from the Seattle Police Department responded to a number of network intrusions at Seattle based merchants. Through the analysis of hacked computers and various malware that was designed to steal credit card information; servers operated in Russia by Seleznev were also discovered. These servers were used to install the malware used to facilitate this crime.

"This case is yet another example that demonstrates the Secret Service is fully committed to protecting our nation's critical financial infrastructure and fulfilling an important part of our integrated mission," said Secret Service Assistant Director Kenneth Jenkins. "It is our goal to continue to utilize our Electronic Crimes Task Force model to promote domestic and international law enforcement partnerships to respond, confront, and suppress the growth of international cyber-crime."

"This investigation included extraordinary support and expertise from the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Western District of Washington, the Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section and Detectives from the Seattle Police Department," said Special Agent in Charge Robert Kierstead of the Seattle Field Office. "The computer forensic and network intrusion training that the Secret Service is able to provide to state and local law enforcement, prosecutors and judges at the [National Computer Forensics Institute](#) (NCFI) in Hoover, AL, significantly enhances our ability to successfully investigate these transnational organized crime groups."

Once Seleznev retrieved the stolen credit card data from the point-of-sale terminals, he would sell the information on various payment card trafficking websites that were operated by him and his co-conspirators. At their height, these illicit carding websites made Seleznev one of the most prolific traffickers of stolen credit card information in the world. Operators of popular "carding" websites have been known to gross as much as half-a-million U.S. dollars per month in sales. While vacationing in the Maldives, Seleznev was finally taken into custody in July, 2014. At the time, his laptop contained more than 1.7 million stolen credit card numbers and communications with a variety of Russian co-conspirators. In total, Seleznev was tied to the intrusion of more than 3,700 victim merchants and financial institutions with a loss of more than \$169 million dollars.

The U.S. Secret Service has taken a lead role in mitigating the threat of financial crimes since the agency's inception in 1865. As technology has evolved, the scope of the U.S. Secret Service's mission has expanded from its original counterfeit currency investigations to also include emerging financial, electronic, and cyber-crimes. As a component agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Secret Service has established successful partnerships in both the law enforcement and business communities – across the country and around the world – in order to effectively combat financial crimes.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For questions concerning this release, please contact the U.S. Secret Service Office of Government and Public Affairs at 202-406-5708.

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The United States Secret Service was originally founded in 1865 for the purpose of suppressing the counterfeiting of U.S. currency. Now an agency within the Department of Homeland Security, the Secret Service is widely known for its protective mission in safeguarding the nation's highest elected officials, visiting foreign dignitaries and events of national significance. Today, the Secret Service maintains a unique integrated mission of protection and investigations, as one of the premier law enforcement organizations charged with investigating cyber and financial crimes.